

## Attachment 1

### Draft Federal Register Notice for Wetland Involvement for 881 Hillside Remedial Action Construction Impacts on South Interceptor Ditch Wetlands

Wetland Involvement Notification for Remedial Action at 881 Hillside, Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, CO

#### AGENCY:

Department of Energy

#### ACTION:

Notice of Wetland Involvement

#### SUMMARY:

The Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct a remedial action involving construction of a system to collect, pump and treat groundwater at the 881 Hillside (Operable Unit 1) at the Rocky Flats Plant north of Golden, CO. Construction of the groundwater collection system will temporarily destroy up to approximately 1500 feet of the South Interceptor Ditch (SID), a man-made feature itself part of remedial action. The SID is located on the 881 Hillside above Woman Creek and was built to collect potentially-contaminated surface water and transport it to Pond C-2 for subsequent treatment and release to local drainages. Wetland vegetation has become established at intermittent locations in the SID where pools of standing water remain for sufficient periods of time. Wetland area in the length of the SID from a point due south of 881 Building to C-2 Pond is approximately 0.15 acres (*Environmental Assessment for 881 Hillside [High Priority Sites] Interim Remedial Action*, page 4-6, USDOE, January, 1990); approximately half that amount will be affected by the proposed action.

The proposed action is construction of a French Drain upslope of the SID and approximately 2500 feet in length, installation of pumps and water transmission lines, and construction of a treatment plant and storage tanks. A trench will be dug down to bedrock across the 881 Hillside roughly parallel to the SID. The French Drain piping will be laid in the trench and an impermeable liner will be installed on the down-gradient side of the pipe prior to backfilling of the trench. The sides of the trench will be sloped to prevent caving during construction. For a distance of up to approximately 1500 feet, the trench and SID are close enough that the sloped excavation of the trench will overlap the SID, requiring the temporary destruction of that portion of the SID and the attendant wetlands.

Water collected in the French Drain will be pumped approximately 900 feet through a buried pipe directly up the Hillside to a collection tank. From the tank, it will flow to an adjacent treatment facility and then into a post-treatment holding tank. Treated water will be released through a second buried pipe to the SID at a point south of 881 Building.

During construction of the French Drain, a bypass will be built to conduct SID flows around the project area, protecting the normal supply of water to SID wetlands downstream of the construction site. Thus, the downstream wetlands should not be affected by the project.

During the period of construction, the affected wetlands will be totally destroyed. Construction is expected to start in the summer of 1991 and be completed by spring, 1992. DOE proposes to reconstruct the destroyed portion of the SID after construction of the French Drain and allow the wetlands to re-establish themselves in the same manner that they established themselves after the SID was originally constructed. No permanent loss of wetlands is expected to occur as a result of this proposed action. Operation of the remedial action may, in fact, enhance future wetlands in the SID by increasing average water volumes in the SID. Water collected by the French Drain system, most of which does not now enter the SID, will, after treatment, be discharged through a buried pipe to the SID at a point due south of 881 Building. This discharge, though intermittent, will increase average flows in the SID, reduce their seasonality and may thereby enhance re-establishment and continuation of wetlands there.

**DATES:**

Any comments on the proposed action are due by:

**ADDRESSES:**

Send comments to: Appropriate DOE Official